

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ken J. Koestner on 5/1/08.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

Before "Field of Invention" on page 1 of the specification, insert:

--Related Applications

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent No. 7,068,671, a division of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/850,953, now abandoned, and a division of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,272,141 and 5,996,020, all entitled "Minimum Level Minimum Logic Network", invented by Coke S. Reed, claiming an earliest effective filing date of July 21, 1995.--

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 1-7, 14, 24, and 36-45 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1-7, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a device set A mutually exclusive of the node set T with each device in the device set A sending data to one or more nodes in the node set T; a device set Z mutually exclusive of the node set T with each device in the device set Z receiving data from one or more nodes in the node set T; and a

collection C of node subsets of the node set T, each node in the node set T being contained in exactly one member of the collection C such that...

Regarding claim 14, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the nodes in the node set P having a priority relationship for sending data to the node N<sub>E</sub>, the nodes in the node set P including distinct nodes N<sub>F</sub> and N<sub>A</sub>, the node N<sub>F</sub> having a highest priority among the nodes in the node set P for sending data to the node N<sub>E</sub> so that a message M<sub>F</sub> arriving at the node N<sub>F</sub> is not blocked from traveling to the node N<sub>E</sub> by a message M<sub>A</sub> arriving at the node N<sub>A</sub>.

Regarding claim 24, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a node set T, an interconnection set I, a device set A, a device set Z, and a set of data paths interconnecting as described in claim 24.

Regarding claims 36-39, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest an interconnect structure including a plurality of nodes, interconnect lines, and devices including device set I and device set Z with features described in claim 36.

Regarding claims 40-45, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest an interconnect structure comprising a node set T, a device set I, a device set Z, a plurality of path P, a device subset T<sub>A</sub>, subset T<sub>D</sub>, and subset T<sub>E</sub> as described in claim 40 or 42.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

Art Unit: 2616

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRIAN D. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-3084. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-6:00 Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doris To can be reached on (571) 272-7629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

5/1/08

/Brian D Nguyen/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2616